Amendment of CLAIMS

Art Unit: 3654

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A cable shortener apparatus for permitting the

length adjustment of a tensioned cable having a certain diameter, said cable

being arranged for supporting a sign carrier from an overhead support, said

cable shortener apparatus comprising:

an annular hub having a first end and a second end;

a rigid radially outwardly extending flange arranged on arrangedon each

end of said hub, each of said flanges flanges having a peripheral outer lip,

each of said peripheral outer lips on each of said flanges together defining a pair

of cable slippage-preventing lips, said cable slippage-preventlng lips being

spaced apart from one another a distance greater than said one certain diameter

and less than twice said certain diameter of said cable to prevent inadvertent

slippage or unwrapping of said cable past itself through said spaced apart

distance between said outer lips of said flanges when said cable is wrapped

about the outer surface of said hub and placed under tension.

2

Amendment of CLAIMS continued

Art Unit: 3654

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The cable shortener apparatus as recited in

claim 1, wherein said radially extending flanges and said annular hub defines

an arrangement of radially inner and side margins of a toroidal volume cable

wrap area.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The cable shortener as recited in claim 2,

wherein said cable has a diameter of more than half of said said distance of said

spaced apart outer lips of said flanges.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The cable shortener as recited in claim 2

wherein said inner hub and each annular flange are individual components

mated together to define a toroidal volume for receipt of said cable.

3

Amendment of <u>CLAIMS</u> continued

Art Unit: 3654

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A sign adjustment mechanism for adjusting the

height of a sign supported by at least one cable under tension hung from an

overhead support, said cable having a certain diameter, said mechanism

comprising:

a pair of rigid, annular, rings each arranged rings each arranged a spaced

apart a first distance from one another on an end of an inner hub disposed

between said rings, each of said rings having an outer peripheral lip spaced

apart a second distance from one another, said second distance being larger than

said certain diameter of said cable and less than twice said certain diameter

of said cable, to define a pair of slippage-preventing lips, thus to permit said

cable to be wrapped about said hub between said rings to thus shorten said

cable.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Amendment of CLAIMS continued

Art Unit: 3654

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method of adjusting the height of a sign from

an overhead support by at least one cable or line, said cable or line having a

certain diameter, said method comprising:

wrapping said cable around a toroidally shaped volume comprised of a

hub and a pair of flanges arranged on each end of said hub, said flanges each

having an outer peripheral lip, each of said peripheral lips of said flanges being

spaced apart from one another a distance less than twice said certain diameter of

said cable and said lips also being spaced apart a distance greater than said

certain diameter of said cable thus forming a pair of cable slippage-preventing

lips.

Claim 8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, including:

unwrapping said cable or line from about said hub, and between

said spaced-apart peripheral lips to lengthen said cable or line.

5